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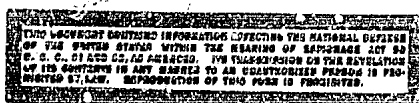
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PROGRESS OF CHINESE WORKERS IN STRUGGLE
FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY

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The strengthening of the democratic regime of the People's Republic of China is going on in town and country. In this connection, agrarian reform is of tremendous significance in carrying out the century-old dream of the peasants to have the landowner's lands handed over to them, and to have liquidated the very foundations of feudal exploitation. In an area inhabited by 310 million of the 400 million agrarian population, the peasants have already divided among themselves the land and equipment of the landlords. In 1952, land reform will be completed in the remaining areas of the country, with the exception of those regions which are populated by the minority nationalities.

On the initiative of Mao Tse-tung, colossal projects have been started to control the floods which inflict serious losses on Chinese agriculture. For these projects in 1951, the people's government spent funds which were 45 times greater than the largest expenditure ever made in one year by the Kuomintang. In the Huai Ho valley alone, 55 million persons have been freed forever from the threat of flood.

By carrying out the land reform and giving assistance to the peasantry, the Central People's Government has facilitated the rapid restoration of agricultural production.

During 1951, China received 8 percent more grain than last year, or 92.8 percent of the prewar 1936 harvest. The production of cotton will surpass last year's crop by 36.9 percent, which is 10 percent above the 1936 level which was the highest in the history of China.

At present, the state sector of the national economy provides one half of the industrial output of the country. About four fifths of heavy industry and almost one third of all light industry are concentrated in the hands of the government. Aside from the state economy in China, there now are three

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[Four listed] more socioeconomic forms: the cooperative economy, the individual economy of peasants and handicraftsmen, the private capitalist economy, and state capitalism.

At the present stage, the Chinese people are achieving an increase in productive forces, regardless of which of these five forms they represent. The development of all the sectors is proceeding under the leadership of the Central People's Government, on the basis of an over-all plan for economic construction. With primary concern for the most rapid industrialization of the country, the Chinese Communist Party and the Central People's Government are concentrating their efforts to raise the level of state industry, which is of a socialistic nature and represents the economic support of the people's democratic regime.

The need for the most rapid possible development of heavy industry, which is in the hands of the government, is also dictated by the need to defend the country from the encroachment of American imperialism. Such data as the following indicate the tremendous rate of growth of heavy industry in China: From January to August 1950, as against the corresponding period in 1949, the production of pig iron increased 11.4 times, steel 7.8 times, and cement 3.8 times. The output of machines and lathes increased more than three times. The intensive increase in production is also continuing in 1951. During the first half of the current year, the output of heavy industry (together with the construction materials industry) increased by 44 percent over the same period of last year.

Great successes have been achieved in machine building, the most important branch of heavy industry. During this year for the first time in the history of the country, machines were manufactured in China for the textile industry. Another achievement of Chinese machine building is the production of automobiles, spare parts, and motors, by the Tientsin automobile plant. According to incomplete data, in 2 years time, the machine builders have gone into production on 270 new types of output, including thousands of electric motors, powerful transformers, and complicated parts for floodgates. Formerly, tractors, drilling machines, and automatic brakes were not produced in China. Now they are in production.

By the end of 1950, industry in China had reached the prewar level. During the first half of 1951, the output of yarn increased 29 percent over the corresponding period of 1950, while textile output increased 24.5 percent. Private enterprises have played an important role in the reestablishment of light industry. In most cases, they now are working on government orders for which they receive credit, fuel, and raw material from the government. With the cooperation of the government organizations, the small private enterprises are joined together in stock companies, in which organizations of the government and of the economy participate. Accordingly, to the extent that there is a strengthening of the state sector in industry and in trade, private capital is becoming more and more subject to the regulatory influence of the government.

The largest industrial centers are being successfully reestablished. Shanghai, where there is concentrated 80 percent of light industry and 25 percent of the heavy industry, is being reborn at a really tremendous speed. If the total steel production in the city during January 1950 is taken as 100, then by December 1950, it amounted to 336, and by May of the ensuing year, 470. The output of cement increased nearly seven times during the 2-year period. In Tientsin, during 1950, in comparison with 1949, the cement industry increased its output nearly two times, flour milling 75 percent and spinning 45 percent. The output of cotton textiles increased 52 percent.

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Recently, the Chinese press indicated that, thanks to Soviet long-term credit, the republic now is in a position to import annually from the USSR 65 percent more equipment than it imported from the capitalist countries prior to World War II.

Chinese industry is going forward rapidly. To meet the requirements of national defense and economic construction, many new plants and mines are being constructed. During the first 6 months of 1951, the number of workers and employees increased by 130,000 persons; at present, they add up to nearly 13 million persons, 1 million of whom are industrial workers. The productivity of labor is steadily improving. In the textile industry, for instance, the output per unit of equipment now is 20-40 percent more than it was during the KMT regime. In state mines, the productivity of labor, in comparison with 1936, has grown 70-150 percent.

As of 1 March 1951, the law on state social insurance went into effect. It is applicable to all enterprises which have more than 100 workers. The fund of government insurance is established from payments made by state enterprises and private entrepreneurs, which are required to deduct 4.5 percent of the general wage fund for these purposes (also for cultural service for the workers). The law allows for payment of different types of pensions, relief for those who are temporarily incapacitated, to maintain average earnings during pregnancy leave, etc. For workers and employees, who are temporarily incapacitated because of industrial injury or occupational ailment, treatment has been established at the expense of the administration or the entrepreneur. At present, social insurance coverage includes about 2.5 million workers.

In June 1951, a special law was approved to protect the work and health of the workers. Also, state control was instituted over observance of this law and over the observance of the rules of safety techniques, and labor hygiene. In connection with modernizing equipment, arranging for technical study for workers, and carrying out extensive measures in the techniques of safety, the number of accidents in Chinese industry has shown a sharp decline.

The cultural-technical level of the Chinese working class is growing steadily. Illiteracy is being wiped out. Early in 1951, in the schools at enterprises there were 700,000 persons in training on the job. In April 1951, the number of persons in training rose to 1,250,000; and now it is almost 2 million. There are more than a million workers and employees engaged in technical studies. All of these moves on the part of the government are made with the active participation and assistance of the labor unions. Under the supervision of the labor unions, there are 34 large palaces of culture, 3,395 workers' clubs 215 mobile motion-picture projectors, and 2,366 libraries. The labor unions have organized 1,157 local-talent painter groups, and 23 brigades of professional artists, who serve the workers of the industrial enterprises.

Thanks to the activity of the Chinese labor unions in protecting the interests of the workers, and the cause of strengthening the people's democratic regime, the unions have earned the deep respect of the broad masses of workers. The following data testify to the rapid growth of the authority of the All-China Federation of Labor and its constantly growing activity in the life of the country:

In 1948, there were 1,448,000 workers and employees in the Chinese labor unions. In 1949, there were 2,373,000; in October 1950, 4,604,000; and in August 1951, 6,130,997 persons. Members of the organizations belonging to the All-China Federation of Labor include 94 percent of the railroad men, 89 percent of the post office and telegraph workers, 82 percent of the metallurgists, and 83 percent of the workers engaged in machine building.

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The new tasks which face the labor unions, in connection with the establishment in the country of the people's democratic regime, have made it necessary to make fundamental changes not only in their activity, but also in their organizational structure. The basic principle of the organization of the Chinese labor unions, has now been declared to be increased production and democratic centralism. The place of the former small shop labor unions has been occupied by the all-inclusive production labor unions. A labor union of railroad men has already been established, as well as unions for post office workers, textile workers, coal workers, metal workers, and those in hand conveyance, power, food, education, and the war industry. Now groundwork committees have been set up for the organization of labor unions in the merchant marine, for trade employees, chemists, builders, leather workers, printers and press workers, machine building workers, and metallurgy workers.

The All-China Federation of Labor has six administrative regional labor union councils, 30 on the provincial level, 76 in special districts (subordinate to the provincial committees), 173 in hsien, and 1,634 in ch'u.

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